

Not Under Control

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Out at sea voyagers sometimes come upon ships flying a signal which means, "Not under control!" This is at once understood by the seafaring men, and they know that out yonder is a vessel whose rudder is broken or whose machinery has become so disabled that no further progress in the right direction can be made. Helplessly the poor ship drifts about at the mercy of the waves, always a menace to the safety of those on board her and a source of danger to any other craft which may cross her track.

I have seen men thus flying the sure and awful signal, "Not under control!" They may be reeling down the street with brain dazed by drink; they may be just entering upon a career of dissipation. Whatever it be, the danger signal is out. Their life-barks are not under control.

I have heard young men and women fly into a terrible passion because their parents did not think it wise to allow them to go into places of questionable nature, where they might meet temptations and influences which would tend to destroy the blush of innocence. "Not under control!" There could be no mistake about it.

A young man is beginning to use the cup of intoxication. His thoughtful and experienced friend says, "I am fearful that this will be the cause of your ruin." "Pshaw!" is the impatient reply, "I am strong enough to stop when I want to. Do you suppose I ever would keep up a habit which I knew was injuring me? When I see that drink harms me I will stop."

Rudder unshipped! Drifting! Not under control!

When the great Brooklyn Bridge was built the man who planned it told the people who would thereafter have charge of it that they must obey certain rules in regard to the amount of the traffic over it at any one time. For a while these rules were strictly enforced. Then one day, all upon a sudden, down sank one of the great cables, carrying with it for several inches a precious human freight. God's hand was on the cable, and it did not go any farther. But that bridge never will be as strong as it once was. Now a solemn warning has been given that it will be perilous to overload the bridge again. It was that one first time which took away the strength of the cable. It is the first glass which places the young man "not under control."

How can we be sure that we are safely going over the course which will lead us home?

I have not known of one single young man who went astray when following the lead of Him who said, "Follow Me!" Placing our trust in him, if storms arise, He says to them, "Be still!" No broken machinery, no unshipped rudder when he is walking upon the wave beside us. You may ask the oldest man you know of anywhere whether he thinks you will make a mistake if you let the Man of Galilee pilot your life-bark, and I am sure

he will say, "No, my son; with Him you will always be 'under control.'"—Christian Advocate.

The Captive Thrush

Exchange

An Edinburg paper says that one day a Lochaber lad caught a thrush and took it home. No cage was to be had, so the bird as placed in a basket with a lid. The boy's mother having told the Rev. Dr. Stewart of the capture, the minister—a naturalist well known thru-out the Western Highland of Scotland—came to see the bird. Whilst they were all talking about the prisoner the lad spied a similar bird on an elder bush, and Dr. Stewart at once noticed that this was the captive's mate. He persuaded the boy to put the basket outside. This was done, and by and by the male bird flew down and began caressing the prisoner in many pretty ways. Then he attacked the basket lid furiously, hoping to peck a hole in it big enough for his consort to escape by. This so touched the boy's mother and even the boy that the latter agreed to let the captive free. Taking the basket back to the spot where the thrush had been caught, the lid was opened and the bird flew off with a wild scream of delight, its mate joining it in the woods—both thrushes, no doubt, happier far than kings.

Our Influence Imperishable

The face of the "mountains" above the city of Hamilton, Ontario is used by the city as a quarry, from which is obtained all the stone used on the streets. I once saw a piece of rock taken out of the heart of that hill which had upon it the perfect impression of a hickorynut. The place where it was found was many feet back from the face of the cliff, and several feet below the surface. How many thousand years ago did the nut fall that formed that impression? It must have taken eons of time to build up the mass of rock that covered this nut.

So with our influence on those we meet. We influence them for good or for evil, and that influence lasts through all generations, and through eternity.

What Drink Did

Michigan Christian Advocate.

"A two dollar bill came into the hands of a relative of mine," writes a lady in Boston, "which speaks volumes on the horrors of strong drink or the traffic in it. There was written, in red ink on the back of it, the following: 'Wife, children, and over \$40,000, all gone. I alone am responsible. All has gone down my throat. When I was twenty-one I had a fortune. I am not yet thirty-five years old. I have killed my beautiful wife, who died of a broken heart; have murdered my children with neglect. When this bill is gone, I do not know how I can get my next meal. I shall die a drunken pauper. This is my last money, and my history. If this bill comes into the hands of any man who drinks, let him take warning from my life's ruin.'"

Our Young People

A Broken Wing

I walked in the woodland meadows,
When sweet the thrushes sing,
And I found on a bed of mosses
A bird with a broken wing.
I healed the wound, and each morning
It sang its old sweet strain;
But the bird with the broken pinion
Never soared as high again.

I found a youth, life-broken
By sin's seductive art,
And, touched with a Christ-like pity,
I took him to my heart.
He lived with a noble purpose,
And struggled not in vain;
But the soul with a broken pinion
Never soared as high again.

But the bird with a broken pinion
Kept another from the snare;
And the life that sin hath stricken
Raised another from despair.
Each loss has its compensation;
There are healings for each pain;
But a bird with a broken pinion
Never soars as high again.

—Christian Weekly.

THE NEEDY AT OUR DOOR

Luke 16:19-31

Topic July 22.

There is an old story of a preacher who went up in the steeple of his church to study his sermons that thus he might be nearer to God. One day he heard the Lord calling him and looking up he replied, "Where art thou Lord? But the voice said, 'Down here among my people.'" Have not the pictures and songs of heaven so common to the past generation turned our eyes too much from present duty to the world beyond? Thank God a new and better theology is coming in, and our very songs and prayer-meeting testimonies are clothed in new garments because of it. We are coming to see that God is in all life and not on some far away throne, and that he is honored not so much by costly churches on fine avenues as by loving hearts which carry light and help to the submerged tenth of the world. More than ever the "pure and undefiled religion" of Jas. 1:27 is coming to prevail. Let it come. The mission of the church is to help it to come. It is hard for missionaries to get the heathen to accept our religion when we have such a saloon-cursed civilization back of it as its recommendation to them. "Let us save America," says Prof. Strong, "not only for America's sake but also for the world's sake."

SCRIPTURE HELP.

1 Christianity makes us all neighbors. Luke 10:36, 37. Show how Christian love must overstep all bounds of kinship or race or rank and do good to all men. Explain Prov. 27:10.

Ways in which Christian love will manifest itself toward different classes.

- 2 The fatherless and widows. Jas. 1:27.
- 3 The poor. Luke 14:12-14; Mark 14:7; I John 3:16-18; Eph. 4:28.
- 4 Strangers. Rom. 12:13; I Peter 4:9.
- 5 The sick. Jas. 5:16.
- 6 The weak. Gal. 6:1; I Thes. 5:14-16.
- 7 The tempted. Isa. 57:14.
- 8 The afflicted. II Cor. 1:4.
- 9 Children. John 21:15; Matt. 10:42.
- 10 Neighbors. Rom. 13:10; Zech. 8:17.

Let the reader or the leader comment on each of the above references.

TOPICS FOR TWO MINUTE TALKS

- 1 What should Christians do for beggars and how?
- 2 Christianity and the rich. I Tim. 5:8.
- 3 A lesson for our rich members from the centurion, Luke 7:5.